



**Minutes- NOMA Meeting Thursday, February 5, 2015**

**Social- 6:30 PM; Meeting 7- 8:55 PM**

**Montana Branch Library**

1. The February 5, 2015 NOMA Meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM.  
A quorum was present. Attending were Board members: Danilo Bach, Nancy Coleman, Victor Fresco, Jeff Gordon, Todd James, Carol Landsberg, and Caryn Marshall. Absent were: Albin Gielicz, Jane Koehler, Evelyn Lauchenauer, and Meyera Robbins.
2. Approval of the Minutes from the Annual Meeting January 24, 2015: The minutes were unanimously approved as written: Todd James- moved; Nancy Coleman - seconded.
3. CA Incline Closure Update and Traffic Mitigation: Curtis Castle, Construction Manager, SM Civil Engineering. Q and A. The CA incline project is scheduled to begin late next month- March or early April and last approximately 12-14 months. During this time the Incline will be closed to all traffic. It should reopen for the summer 2016 beach season. The Traffic Management Plan calls for Moomat Ahiko Way to be the main detour route. Traffic will be directed South on Ocean Avenue to Moomat Ahiko which is just South of the Santa Monica Pier. There will be extensive public outreach to inform SM residents and surrounding communities of the detour route. And, there will be a hold on other City projects during this project to allow for traffic being diverted from the Incline.  
The Idaho overpass for pedestrians will be closed during construction.  
The Incline is actually a bridge. The bluffs will be stabilized during construction.  
The design: On the ocean side of the Incline, there will be 16 -17 feet devoted to 2 bike lanes (one up and one down) and a pedestrian lane. These 3 lanes join the PCH overpass and do not go to the bottom of the Incline. Next there is a cement barrier and then the two lanes of traffic- one going up and one going down. There will be a left turn lane at the top and at the bottom. At the top, there will be a right turn lane as well. The City Traffic Management Plan is dependent on signage to direct vehicles to the detour. Cameras to monitor traffic will be placed only at intersections where there are traffic lights. It appears that no provision has been made to reduce the cut through traffic in the NOMA area. They think that drivers who try to use the already congested streets going into the canyon - Ocean, 4<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> - will find them already jammed and choose to use the detour route instead- as stated in the attached email sent from Curtis Castle after his talk at the NOMA meeting. The City Transportation and Design Consultant designed the new Incline.  
[curtis.castle@smgov.net](mailto:curtis.castle@smgov.net) phone (310) 458-8721 ext. 5048
4. Crime and Safety Report: Scott McGee, Neighborhood Resource Officer:  
There has been some changes in assignments as Mike Cveyich has retired. We will have Officer Susie (Kim) Lockwood back to work with Scott.

The SM Police and the first responders are looking at traffic management issues coming with the closing of the Incline. We need to be patient with traffic as people learn how to negotiate it.. There may be assignments to the N side and to the S side. "crimes of opportunity" continue- especially with unlocked car doors. The roll-up sleeve bandit is in custody. Residential and construction site burglaries continue. IF YOU SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING is the best protection a neighborhood can have- watch for strangers and call if they look suspicious. Most burglaries occur in the daytime when people are out of the house. If you do call, don't hang up. Stay on the phone. You may be the witness they need to apprehend/take into custody the criminal. A drop-cam camera is very helpful. It can easily plug into a power source to view the perimeter or inside of your home and you can view it on your phone. Scott.McGee@smgov.net or his cell is 424 200 0685. Scott.mcgee@smgov.net

5. Water Rates Discussion and third Update on the SM Waste System Infrastructure: Gil Borboa PE, City of SM Water Resources Manager. Tom Poon, Analysis  
Santa Monica has not had a significant water rate increase since 2005 when there was a 6% rate increase. There has been an automatic Consumer Price Index rate increase every year. This rate increase does not need City Council approval.

The City of SM sells water to us and this pays for our:

2 water treatment plants with a third one pending.

250 miles of pipeline with some of them over 100 years old

A state certified water quality lab

Now SM is looking at rising operating costs and reduced income because we must reduce water usage by 20% (less usage= less income)

SM water rates now are next to the lowest when compared to neighboring agencies. The increase will make it possible for the City to install Smart Meters which are 99% accurate and can monitor flow 4 times a day. If a customer has a leak in his water system, it will be flagged and he will be notified. Now, the meter is read only every 60 days. Meters have to be in the public access space. New multifamily buildings will have a master meter and then sub meters for each family..

There is a Variance Process for people who cannot cut water usage any more than they have already done.

A water bond is another way to get income, but there was concern that the City might not qualify for the bond or it would affect the rating.

The new water rates are scheduled to be voted in on February 24, 2015 and go into effect March 1, 2015 unless 51% of the property owners do not protest them. You should have received a letter from the City notifying property owners of the rate increase and the protest process. The rates for sewer and trash which are also on the water bill will remain the same. They are not being increased.

Time did not permit discussion of waste water issues.

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6. Residocracy: A conversation with Armen Melkonians, Founder, on Residocracy's first anniversary. Armen is talking with neighborhood groups to learn what residents want with regard to the development issues facing the City. 2015 is an immensely important year for SM. There are many issues for the City to take action upon. The L.U.C.E. (Land Use and

Circulation Element) is a policy document. The Zoning Ordinance codifies a policy document- making the rules that carry out the policy.

There is a 5-year limit to redoing the Zoning Ordinance and it must be adopted in June. Residents have become concerned and been opposing the policies regarding the development of our City since the adoption of the LUCE. They have been showing up, in growing numbers, to voice their concerns that the policy is allowing development that is too much, too big, too tall. Residocracy was born to address this dynamic that residents' voices were not being heard in policy decisions.

The Residocracy electronic petition (e-petition) gives residents a quantitative way to let their voices be heard about a specific issue. They do so by signing the e-petition themselves and then pledging how many other signatures they can gather on the issue. Residocracy is not a political party. If the City is viewed as being represented as a living body, then the blood stream represents the residents, and the white blood cells are the activists. Residocracy would be the antibodies- protecting the body (City) from harm.

A Referendum is the residents' veto on a decision made by the City Council.

An Initiative is a law created by the people that cannot be rescinded by the City Council. It looks like Residocracy will launch an electronic petition on the Zoning Ordinance. Then what happens will depend on how many people sign up and how many signatures they pledge. Residocracy can only move forward with the support of the community. If there are enough signatures, then Residocracy will launch a referendum on the Zoning Ordinance.

It is possible there could be a duel effort- Residocracy could also launch an Initiative to limit development.

#### 7. Announcements: Danilo Bach

- a. Big Blue Bus benches- BBB is considering 2 models of new chairs for bus stops. They will be at the SE corner of Lincoln and Montana. Try them and vote your favorite.
- b. San Vicente Blvd in Brentwood will be closed for the "Home Run for Kids" marathon from 6AM -10AM on Sunday, February 8.
- c. The interactive tool for the SM Civic is on the City website. Go and try it.

#### 8. The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 PM.

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Carol Landsberg, Secretary

Join us for the next NOMA Meeting: Thursday, March 5, 2015!